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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,914	11/26/2001	Douglas James Little	08613.0002	7544
22852	7590	04/03/2007	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			TRAN, HAI	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3693
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
31 DAYS	04/03/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/991,914	LITTLE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hai Tran	3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-66 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the first Office Action in response to the application filed on November 26, 2001, title: "Methods And Apparatus For Developing Investment".

Acknowledgements

2. This application claims the benefit of a foreign application Australia 78277/01 filed October 8, 2001.

Election/Restrictions

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121.
 - I. Claims 1-27, 42-53, and 55-65, drawn to a method and an apparatus for determining weightings of an investment portfolio selected from a range of domestic and international financial investments, classified in class 705, subclass 36.
 - II. Claims 28-41, 54 and 63, drawn to a method and an apparatus for determining a spread of investments across groups of financial investments including domestic and international financial investments, classified in class 705, subclass 36.
 - III. Claim 66, drawn to a method of advising investors on an investment strategy within a selected industry segment, classified in class 705, subclass 36.
4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

5. Inventions I and II are separate inventions. Inventions are separate inventions if it can be shown that they are disclosed as capable of use separately and they have different modes of operation and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions are: invention I is directed to determining the weights of an investment portfolio selected from a range of domestic and international financial investments, and invention II is directed to determining a spread of an investment across groups of financial investments. Each of the inventions has different modes of operation and effects. For example, invention I requires weighting mechanism to weigh an investment portfolio, whereas invention II requires mechanism to determine the spread of investments across groups of financial investments.

6. Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility for weighting an investment based on weighting mechanism, and invention III has separate utility for advising investors on investment strategy. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

7. Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility for spreading an investment based on its criteria, and invention III has separate utility for advising investors on investment strategy. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

8. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for claims 1-66 is different for each invention, restriction for examination

purpose as indicated is proper even though the three inventions are classified in the same class and subclass. (See MPEP § 808.02).

9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10. A telephone call was made to the attorney Jeffrey Berkowitz (202-408-2710) on 3/20/2007 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

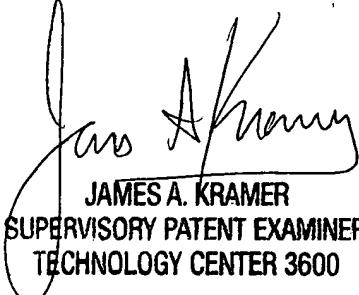
Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7364. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-4 PM.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James A. Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HT.



3/29/07

JAMES A. KRAMER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600